

March 1, 2021

HB 6517

My name is Kathleen Maror, I live in Bethany, Connecticut and I am writing to you in support of House bill 6517

My daughter was identified as a struggling reader shortly after she entered Kindergarten in September of 2000. She received intervention services through her public school in Kindergarten, first, second, and third grade. In third grade her school psychologist recommended that the school district stop intervention because this was anxiety. In fourth grade the general education teacher wondered why she wasn't receiving intervention and insisted she be helped with reading and writing. It was not shocking to us to learn this as we never saw this as mental health. Intervention in grades 5 and 6 finally led us to seek help outside the school.

My daughter was diagnosed with dyslexia in seventh grade. As a parent we were pleased to know what was going on. If you guessed this was the end of our story, you would not be correct. Diagnosis alone meant little. We accepted the support of the reading specialists through middle and high school but the services did little to help. I finally decided to take matters into my own hands.

I went back to school and changed careers. Today I am a special education teacher, Orton Gillingham certified practitioner and work in a public school. After I graduated from my local state college I had 3 credits in reading that were required for my Masters in Special Education. Clearly I did not know what I was doing. When my first supervisor of special education asked me what "my reading program was," I said, "What's yours?"

As I work toward my sixth year degree in reading and having done 2 one-year training programs outside of school on my own time I'm ready to teach children with dyslexia. I believe that all elementary education programs should include scientifically based reading instruction, oversight by the State is important as is continued training to maintain reading proficiency and credentials.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Marlor
Bethany, Connecticut